

Kernowek Elements in Place Names

The elements listed below are drawn from different sources and spellings to provide as large a cross section as possible, and do not promote any variant above another.

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| <p>Tre Trv, drev, dra</p> <p>Homestead, Farm</p> | <p>An 'n</p> <p>The</p> | <p>Den</p> <p>Man, human</p> | <p>Gwynn Gwydn, wydn, widden, wedn White</p> |
| <p>Pedn Pedn, pen</p> <p>Headland, End</p> | <p>Chy Chi, chei, choy, ji, jy, gey, ty, ti House</p> | <p>Ros Rose, roose, rōs</p> <p>Heathland, Moor, Promentary</p> | <p>Scowan Skawen, scowen, scawen, scawn Elder Tree</p> |
| <p>Pol Poll</p> <p>Pool, Hollow</p> | <p>Ke Kei</p> <p>Hedge</p> | <p>Porth Port, por'</p> <p>Harbour, port, cove, gateway</p> | <p>Gwaynten Gwenton, gwainton</p> <p>Spring (season)</p> |
| <p>Nans Valy, nance, nant, nan, nanch, nanj</p> <p>Valley</p> | <p>Lan Ladn, lav, laf</p> <p>Monastic Enclosure, Enclosure</p> | <p>Lanergh</p> <p>Clearing in wood, Open Space</p> | <p>Clos Garth, kew, garthen</p> <p>Enclosure</p> |
| <p>Strêt</p> <p>Street</p> | <p>Dowr Dour, dower</p> <p>Water</p> | <p>Goon Woon, 'oon, un</p> <p>Moor, Downs</p> | <p>Kër Car, gear Fortified Farmhouse Fort</p> |
| <p>Fenten Venton</p> <p>Spring (water)</p> | <p>Pons Ponds, pont, pon</p> <p>Bridge</p> | <p>Tira Tir, londya, tÿr</p> <p>Land</p> | <p>Meneth Menydh, mena, , veneth Mountain, Hill</p> |
| <p>Bre Brea, brae, fra, vre</p> <p>Hill</p> | <p>Toll Tol</p> <p>Hole</p> | <p>Men Meyn, mÿn, maen, mayne Stone</p> | <p>Du Dhu, thew, due, sue</p> <p>Black</p> |
| <p>Carrek Carrygy, karrek, karrygi, carrik Rock</p> | <p>Coos Koos, cos, coose, goose Woodland, wood</p> | <p>Oghen Owan, owen</p> <p>Oxen</p> | <p>Melyn Melin, mellan, vellan, vellyn, belin Mill</p> |
| <p>Lys Les, lis, cort</p> <p>Court</p> | <p>Din Dyn</p> <p>Fort</p> | <p>Cunys Keunys, kenys, kenij</p> <p>Firewood</p> | <p>Bian Byghan, vean, pean</p> <p>Small, Little</p> |

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|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mol Mool, moyl, mul | Park Parc | Goles Woles, wooles | Crows Krows, grouse |
| Bare (hill) | Field | Bottom | Cross |
| Res Rys, ris, ros | Bos Bod, boj, bo | Sëgh Segh, sick, zeh,ce | Yëyn Yeyn, jean, yon |
| Ford | Dwelling place | Dry | Cold |
| Hal Al, hale | Howlek Howlyek, iliack | Elyn Elin, ulian | Plen Plain |
| Moor, Down | Sunny | Elbow, angle, corner | Plain, arena |
| Gwary Gwarry | Erow Errow | Carn Karn, kern, ken | Glas Glaze |
| Play | Acre | Tor, outcrop, rock pile | Blue |
| Yorgh Yorth | Treth Dreth, treath, dreath | Horn orne | Ber |
| Rose-deer | Beach | Iron | Short |
| Lydn Lynn, lan, lyn | Enys Ninnes, ninnis | Sans Zance | Clos Klos |
| Lake, Pool | Island | Holy | Enclosure |
| Tegen Teggan | Redenek Redinnick | Hir Heere | Meur Veur, veor |
| Ornament, trinket | Fern brake | Long | Great, much |
| Havrak Havrek, arack | Lowarth Laour, lower | Erys Eras, erras | Kernow Curnow |
| Fallow land | Garden | Ploughed land | Cornwall |
| Nowyth Noweth | Marhas Marghas, maraz, marraz | Carrow Karow | Margh Mar, marth |
| New | Market | Stag | Horse |
| Logos Loggas | Ky Kie, ki | Amal | Aswy Aji, adja, aja, adje |
| Mice | Dog | Edge | Gap |

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| Hen Werne, warne | Gwern Werne, warne | Morrep Morrab | Towan Tewyn, towen |
| Ancient | Marsh, Swamp | Seashore | Dune |
| Lu New | Bedh Vedh, vah | Golow Wolow, wollow, ullow | Crellas Cryllys, hyllys, crellas |
| Army, Host | Grave | Light | Rough hut |
| Gwyns Wyns, wens | Gorwyth Gwarra | Bownder | Fordh |
| Wind | Wooded slope | Lane | Road |
| Eglos | Pras | Kelly | Gun Gon |
| Church | Meadow | Copse | Down, Plain |
| Meneth | Sawn Saun | Kil Kyl | Legh |
| Hill | Cleft , Gully | Nook, Recess | Flat stone, Slab |
| Lonk Keynans | Tyr Tȳr, Pow | Arth | Stras |
| Ravine | Land | Highland, High place | Broad valley, Lowland |
| Cow | Rȳn Rynn, Run | Gweras | Aweth |
| Hollow | Promontory, Point of land | Ground, Earth, Soil | Water course |
| Cawns | Fenten | Goth Gōth, Gwȳth | Gwyk Gwȳk |
| Causeway | Spring | Uncultivated, Watercourse | Forest, Church town, Wood, Grove |
| Gilly Kelli, gelly, gilley | Coys Coose, Cos, Cus, Quite, Koes, Goos, Gus, Gett | Plu | Gwavos |
| Grove | Wood | Parish | Winter Dwelling |

Notes:

Historically in Kernowek most place names have been made up of two elements an initial (Generic) element which describes the place in question such as “Pen (head)” followed by a second element (Qualifier) which adds more detail / description to the name such as “Goon (Down)”.

Not all names are made up in this way, some are just singular elements such as Gweek (Gwyk – Forrest)

Some also have plant names included such as Pencalenik (Pen – Head & Calenik – Holly)

The inclusion of “Saints” names is also seen often in place names in Kernow such as;

Maucan – St Mawgan

Guidian – Gwithian

Austoll – St Austell

Berion – St Buryan

The inclusion of English elements into place names has also made it harder perhaps to identify the original Cornish elements within the historical names of places in Kernow, so when looking at place names it is best to research the Cornish name for the place and not simply attempt to translate the name as it is used today on maps. Lately the Cornish name for a place is included in many of the roadside signs by Cornwall council.

Below are some additional links for further information / research, other sites are available;

<http://cornish-place-names.wikidot.com/start>

<https://bernarddeacon.com/>

<https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=1&xcoord=162690&ycoord=64380&wsName=ccmap&layerName=>

[Cornish Language, Place names in Cornwall and Cornish dialect words and phrases including learning resources, books and Cds \(intocornwall.com\)](#)

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